

Message Text

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ORIGIN MC-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 /067 R

DRAFTED BY PM/MC:JDHATAWAY/JPWALSH:SAG

APPROVED BY PM/MC - WILLIAM B. ROBINSON

NEA/ARP -RAHERNE

NEA/EA - EPADELFORD (PHONE)

DOD - LT. COL. LOVE (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 257979

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA

SUBJECT: MUNITIONS CONTROL DISAPPROVAL OF SAUDI NATIONAL
GUARD (SNG) ARMS PURCHASE

REFERENCE: JIDDA 6493

1. THE ONLY LEGITIMATE MILITARY ROLE FOR SUPPRESSED/
SILENCED WEAPONS IS GENERALLY CONCEDED TO BE THEIR USE
BY LONG RANGE PATROLS IN UNFRIENDLY TERRITORY. THEIR
EFFECTIVENESS EVEN IN THIS ROLE IS LIMITED, ESPECIALLY
WHEN UTILIZED WITH THE SHORT RANGE 9MM SUBMACHINE GUNS
PRODUCED BY MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION (MAC).

2. ON THE OTHER HAND SILENCED WEAPONS DO HAVE STRONG
POTENTIAL FOR USE IN ASSASSINATION AND TERROR OPERATIONS;
UNLIKELY MISSIONS FOR SNG. THE MAC WEAPON IS ESPECIALLY
ADAPTED TO THIS TYPE OF USE BY ITS VERY SMALL SIZE, RAPID
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RATE OF FIRE, AND THE ATTACHE TYPE CARRYING CASE ALSO

FURNISHED BY MAC. THE MANUFACTURE, MOVEMENT AND SALE OF THESE WEAPONS WITHIN THE U.S. IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY THE ALCOHOL, TABACCO AND FIREARMS DIVISION OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

3. SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT HAS REFUSED TO

LICENSE SUPPRESSORS/SILENCERS FOR EXPORT ON A WORLD WIDE BASIS BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL MISUSE OF SUCH WEAPONS. (FYI: WE HAVE AUTHORIZED LIMITED NUMBERS FOR SELECTED, BUT NOT ALL, OF OUR NATO ALLIES. END FYI).

4. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, EXPORT OF 699 MAC WEAPONS AND 104 SUPPRESSORS TO NATIONAL GUARD WAS AUTHORIZED IN MAY 1974, PRIOR TO BAN. IN JUNE 1975, DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED ADDITIONAL 190 MAC WEAPONS FOR SAUDIS BUT DENIED LICENSE FOR SUPPRESSORS. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO AUTHORIZE NON-SILENCED WEAPONS, BUT IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS REFUSALS TO MAKE EXCEPTIONS AFTER DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, WE ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO DO SO IN THIS CASE.

YOU MAY WISH TO INDICATE TO PRINCE BADR THAT, WITH THE APPROVED SALE OF 104 SUPPRESSORS LAST YEAR, THE SNG RECEIVED THE LARGEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS HARDWARE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. INGERSOLL

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